

SECRET**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PANEL****WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 1**

For week ending 18 May 1948

Outlook in Palestine Case. Until the termination of the Palestinian mandate, the delegates to the recent Special Session of the UN General Assembly regarded friction between Arab and Jew as an internal dispute, particularly as the British had refrained from bringing the matter before the UN as a specific threat to peace. Accordingly, the delegates dickered interminably for a "mirage like" solution to the future of Palestine which would be agreeable to all. These arid legalistic gestures inevitably lagged behind the swift pace of history and the problem of the Holy Land was referred to the ultimate arbitrament of war. The end of the mandate and the proclamation of a Jewish state, however, have furnished the UN with some legal foundation for action to end the fighting. The Security Council, charged with halting aggression, was confronted with a clear-cut case of a threat to world peace following Egypt's invasion of Israel and the latter's appeal to the SC. At present the entire UN labors under a sense of frustration and bewilderment as to US motives and policy shifts and US prestige has suffered accordingly. The best hope remaining is that war itself may, in time, establish some equilibrium which will make both contestants more amenable to mediation.

Prospects for continued WFTU unity. Closing sessions of the Rome meeting of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) Executive Committee revealed that the 7-point agreement between the US and Soviet national labor organizations did not resolve all major issues dividing the East-West blocs in the WFTU. The Communist trade unions succeeded in postponing consideration of the controversial application of the French Force Ouvriere (FO) for admission to WFTU and of the claim of Leon Jouhaux, FO chief, to a seat in the WFTU Executive Bureau. The CIO has indicated it will demand Jouhaux's reinstatement at the August meeting of the Executive Committee in order to restore East-West equality in the nine-man Bureau. Continuing CIO readiness to withdraw from WFTU pending full compliance with its principal demands, can be expected to induce the USSR to cooperate further with the western unions and to implement the Rome agreement which curtailed the activities of the pro-Communist WFTU General Secretary. James Carey, CIO representative at the Rome

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meeting, has declared that his group will not participate in a Communist-dominated WFTU.

Controversy over big power role in ECME. The desire of the UK and the USSR to participate in the proposed Economic Commission for the Middle East (ECME) reflects the importance they attach to a voice in Middle Eastern economic affairs. The USSR insists on membership as the only neighboring Great Power, while the UK desires a seat on the basis of her colonies in that area. Although France, China and the US oppose big power membership, the first two want seats if the UK and the USSR are allowed to join. Since the Arab states vehemently oppose any big power participation and might refuse to join under such circumstances, abstention of all the Great Powers from ECME membership may be the price for preventing Soviet participation.

Satellites anxious to make ECE effective. While the satellite nations voted consistently with the Soviet bloc in the recent session of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Poles and Czechs went out of their way privately to indicate friendliness toward the US. Their attitude, evident at earlier ECE meetings, betrays their fear of being further isolated economically from the West and their interest in developing ECE as an economic link between the two areas. The French and Scandinavians, too, are concerned with keeping open a door to mutual trade through ECE, and it appears likely that its promotion, largely through the Soviet-proposed trade committee, will become a major function of ECE.

Atomic Energy Control. At the next General Assembly, the USSR may, as part of a more conciliatory policy in the UN, make concessions designed to prevent suspension of the work of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). After twenty-three months of labor frustrated by Soviet obstructionism, the AEC voted, over Soviet protest, to suspend further work. However, the Soviet Union, which has consistently sought to keep the AEC going, may modify its position just enough to enable continuation of discussions.

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